

The AMERICAN OBSERVER

A free, virtuous and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. — James Monroe



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DECEMBER 20, 1933

Attention Focused on Problem of Crime

Roosevelt Declares for Overhauling of Judicial Branch as Part of New Deal Program

REPEAL RAISES NEW QUESTIONS

Fear Expressed That Gangsters May Turn to Other Forms of Organized Crime

On the evening of December 6, President Roosevelt addressed the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America. During the course of his address, the president touched upon a subject which has for years commanded the attention of millions of American citizens. That was the question of crime and the administration of justice. In speaking of the recent wave of lynchings that has gone over the country, Mr. Roosevelt stated that in many respects our judicial system was defective and implied that a new deal in this field must be an essential part of the vast program of reconstruction undertaken by the government. The president said:

The judicial function of government is the protection of the individual and of the community through quick and certain justice. That function in many places has fallen into a state of disrepair. It must be a part of our program to reestablish it.

Lynchings

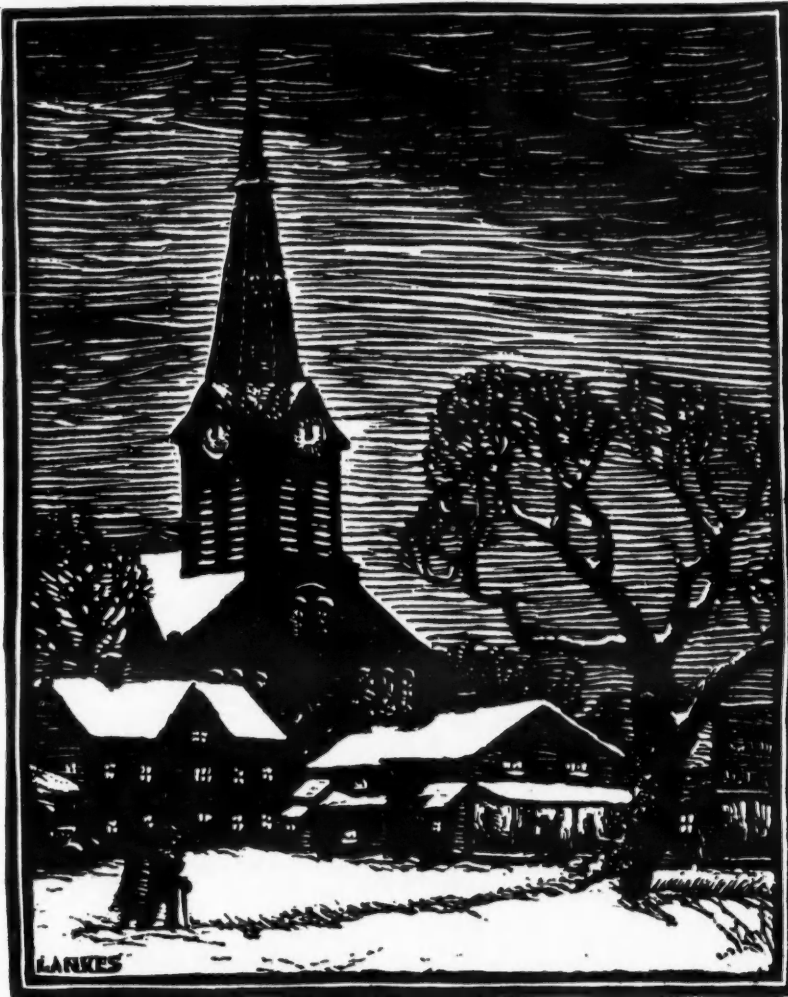
The whole question of crime has been dramatically brought into the open during the last few weeks by a number of events. The rise of mob violence in different sections of the country has brought the total number of lynchings this year to twenty-seven, or almost three times as many as last year and more than twice as many as in 1931. Then, repeal of the prohibition amendment has caused considerable speculation as to what its effect will be upon crime in the United States. The more optimistic believe that all the crime resulting from prohibition will disappear, while other students of crime and social problems maintain that the return of legal liquor will give rise to another set of criminal problems which, if not handled wisely, may lead to serious consequences, merely changing the type of crime without reducing its quantity.

Because so much sensationalism is attached to crimes such as murders, lynchings, daring robberies, and the like, the general impression is created that the United States is in the throes of a tidal crime wave. The newspapers, the movies, utterances of public officials, all tend to emphasize this point of view. It is cited that the nation's crime bill amounts to more than \$13,000,000,000 annually and that Americans are the most lawless people on the face of the earth. By and large, the crime record of this country is one of the things of which we can least be proud. It is important, therefore, that we examine some of the facts in the case—the extent, the causes of crime, and the suggested reforms necessary at least to reduce this evil.

Extent of Crime

It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to get an accurate and reliable picture of the extent of crime in the United States. In the first place, statistics on crime are

(Concluded on page 7, column 1)



SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT!
From a woodcut by J. J. Lankes, courtesy Weyhe Galleries, New York.

The Meaning of Christmas

(Reprinted from THE AMERICAN OBSERVER for December 16, 1931)

In looking back across the ages for the origin of our Christmas festival, we are lost in the confusion and disorganization of the early Christian centuries. It appears that no fixed date was established as the day of Jesus' birth for many generations after the beginning of the Christian era. For a long time January 6 was celebrated in Jerusalem as the birthday of Jesus, but since about 450 A. D. December 25 has been the recognized date. It is possible that our Christmas Day, under another name, had earlier origins. December 25, as the first day of the year, was a pagan festival in Britain before the conversion of the island to Christianity, though the nature of the ceremonies incident to the occasion is no longer held in racial memory. The pre-Christian festivities were so definitely associated with December 25, however, that in 1644 the Puritans, by act of Parliament, forbade merrymaking on Christmas on the ground that the custom was pagan. The day was to be kept as a religious fast, and so it is observed today in many parts of the Christian world. But in all the Teutonic countries it is a day to be merry and to give gifts. Thus it has been celebrated year after year and century after century, in a spirit of gladness and good will.

And now the Christmas spirit casts its spell again upon us. It brightens the streets. It puts lights in the windows. It brings new life to the market places. It touches with romance days that normally are a little dull. It fires the children with excitement and turns the faces of the grown-ups toward their childish past. It revives the customs of other days, and restores to all of us for a while the fantasies of a fairyland from which we have been banished during all these sober years. It carries us in spirit to realms far less drab than the workaday world in which we have lived. We are refreshed by the hurry and bustle and color of the holiday season. We are enabled to go back to our work with renewed energy and with broadened outlook. But the Yuletide spirit means more than a coloring of life. It is more than a resurging of youth. The season loses much of its promise if the bestowal of gifts, the reunion of friends and the exchange of greetings are not indeed the manifestations of sincere friendliness and ever-widening sympathies. The generous impulses so necessary to individual and social happiness may well be stimulated by this Christmas festival which, whatever its origins, we now celebrate in the name of One who lived and died that good will might abide in the hearts of men and that peace might reign among the peoples of the earth.

Hitler May Abolish States in Germany

Nazi Leader Believed Preparing to Divide Country Into Number of Equal Districts

WOULD STRENGTHEN HIS POWER

Latest Step in Vigorous Campaign to Increase Hold on German People

Germany's parliament—the Reichstag—was called into session on December 12. Delegates to this body had been chosen a month earlier, at the same time that the German people voted almost united approval of Hitler's foreign policies. Needless to say, only one political party is represented in the new Reichstag—the National Socialist party. All organized opposition to Hitler in Germany has been suppressed. Needless to say, also, the Reichstag will not have any real authority of its own. Last March Hitler was voted a four-year dictatorship.

Territorial Program

It is possible, however, that the Reichstag will be called upon to go through the formality of giving its approval to certain additional reforms not covered by the March enabling act which created the Hitler dictatorship. For example, the chancellor is said to have in mind a complete reorganization of Germany's territorial divisions. At present the country is apportioned among thirteen federated states and three free cities. The states vary greatly in size, Prussia being larger than all the rest combined. The diets, or parliaments, of these states have already been dissolved and in the last election no provisions were made for the selection of new members. Hitler apparently plans to abolish the diets completely and at the same time to reorganize the whole of Germany into equal districts under the administration of representatives of the central government.

The significance of this revolutionary step in Germany can be appreciated if it is recalled that no further back than 1870 the German states—Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, Württemberg and the others—were independent nations joined together in a loose federation. Each had its own ruler, laws and customs. In many respects the people of the various states differed from each other as much as people of distinct nationalities do.

Germany has never, until recently, been a united nation in the fullest sense of the term. Even after the formation of the German Empire, following the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, the individual German states retained a large measure of self-government. As has been indicated, they still had their own parliaments, their own governing officials. The administration of laws was left to the individual states and the authority of the central government was distinctly limited.

The German people were never wholly satisfied with the way Germany was divided into states, however. Prussia, having such a preponderant share of the territory, could dominate the central government. The smaller states resented this and various efforts were made to break up Prussia and effect a more equal divi-

sion of territory. But no movement in this direction was ever successful.

Now, however, with Hitler as master of Germany a realignment of the internal boundaries of the country seems likely to occur in the near future. But it must be noted that Hitler's motive is not to provide more equal representation for the smaller German states. On the contrary, he wants to do away with the states altogether and make sure that all power will continue to be concentrated in the central government. By breaking up the states, by separating them completely from their past traditions, he expects to insure against the possible growth of any opposition toward him in the future.

Coordination Program

This is but the latest prospective step in Hitler's active and continuous campaign to establish himself securely at the head of the German government. Ever since he became chancellor on January 30, he has systematically maneuvered to weed out all opposition. The hostile Social Democratic, Communist and Catholic Center parties have all been dissolved and now the National-Socialist party reigns supreme. The cabinet which first consisted of a coalition between the Nationalists and the National-Socialists has been gradually reorganized and the Nationalists forced out. Military organizations such as the Steel Helmets, or war veterans, have been merged with Hitler's Storm Troops. All factions have either been suppressed or brought into harmony with the Hitler government—"coördinated" is the word used.

The most notable action of this kind has been the campaign against Jews, Communists and Socialists. Immediately after the March election, Hitler began a policy of ruthless suppression against the enemies whom he had frequently sworn to destroy. Numerous stories of atrocities—beatings, "suicides" and murders—came out of Germany. There is every indication that Hitler's foes were mercilessly treated. It is estimated that 60,000 people have fled the country. About 22,000 more are herded into concentration camps—open-air prisons—in various parts of Germany.

The Jewish Question

Hitler's treatment of the Jews has been subjected to particular censure all over the world. The German chancellor has declared that his principal aim is to create a Germany for the benefit of all those who have pure German blood—Aryans, he calls them. He wants to unite every one of true German stock into one great nation. To accomplish this the Jews, whom he considers as foreigners and whom he accuses of having been responsible for Germany's economic ills, must be suppressed. They cannot marry people of true German extraction and cannot hold positions of prominence and importance.

It is natural that such tactics should have aroused the indignation, not only of Jews, but of liberal-minded Christians in all parts of the world. The Jews maintain that they are being subjected to persecution unsurpassed in modern times. They contend that they are not foreigners but are just as good Germans as any others. They point out that their contributions to culture, to music, literature, art, and to science have been wholly disproportionate to their share of the population. There are—or there were before Hitler came in—some 600,000 Jews in Germany.

The campaign of violence against the Jews in Germany has largely abated. Economic oppression, however, continues. Doctors, lawyers, teachers, scientists, office workers, have been thrown out of work in large numbers. The Foreign Policy Association recently made a report on the Jewish question in Germany in which it stated:

... it must be stated that the position of all "non-Aryans" in the Reich is uncertain and precarious, for, aside from the humanitarian and social aspects of the situation, their economic future appears black. The younger generation of "non-Aryans" will not only be unable to earn a livelihood but the educational opportunities open to them even now are strictly limited.

It must be borne in mind, however, that Communists and Socialists have been equally persecuted. It is one of the principal aims of Fascism to suppress radical labor movements, to prevent the government from falling into the hands of workers who would change the social and economic system. Hitler, therefore, has sought to stamp out the Communists and the Socialists. He has undermined the power of the labor unions. Workers and employers are to be gathered together into new unions under governmental control. Hitler aims to abolish all warfare among

guardian angel is said to be Fritz Thyssen, the country's most powerful steel magnate, who became convinced that a strong nationalistic government was necessary to safeguard his industrial interests. To accomplish this he threw his support to Hitler. An account of this interesting feature of the rise of National-Socialism is given by Ernst Henri in the *Living Age*. Mr. Henri states:

Thyssen has been a member, the chief financier, and the real inspirer of the Hitler party since 1927, the year in which he and Vöglar were received in Rome by Mussolini, and



JUNIOR NAZIS MEET IN BERLIN

Young people in Germany are organized in juvenile organizations similar to those of the Italian Fascist youths.

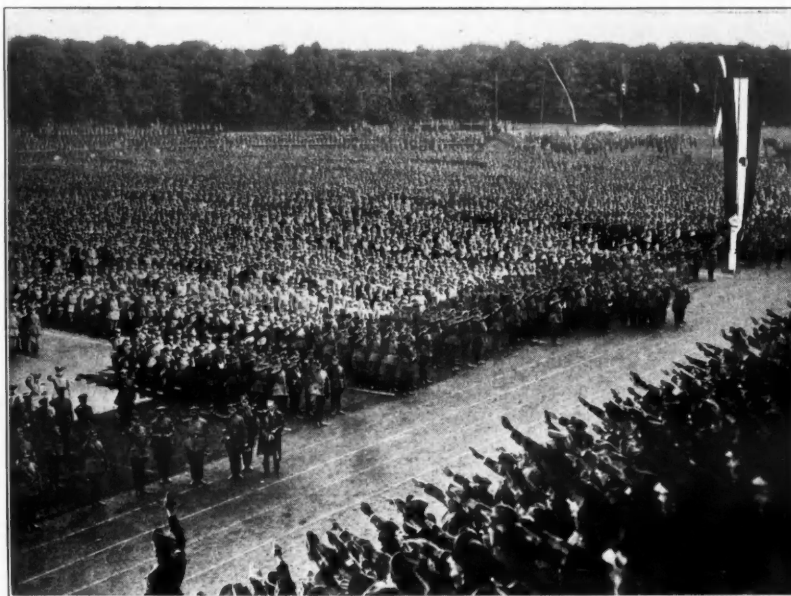
classes. They are to be united into one harmonious whole under the direction of the government.

A Fascist Program

This is all part of the Nazi leader's program to bring the entire German nation under the control of the Fascist government. To a large extent, he is copying Mussolini in refashioning the economic life of Germany. He wants to introduce a type of Italian corporate state in which industry and labor are organized in guilds

shortly before the time when the sudden growth of National-Socialism in Germany began. He became the closest personal friend of its leader; Hitler never took an important step without first consulting Thyssen and his friends. Thyssen systematically financed all the election funds of the National-Socialist party.

If this is true—and it is a statement not easily proved or disproved—then it may definitely be said that the Hitler government is well under the control of heavy industrial interests. And the fact that Thyssen has been appointed "Supreme



THE GERMAN STEEL HELMETS, FIFTY THOUSAND STRONG, GIVE THE NAZI SALUTE TO HITLER.

and syndicates. As a step toward this, Hitler has placed government representatives in numerous business organizations. There has not, however, taken place any movement to destroy or reduce the power of the large industrialists. In a Fascist revolution the middle class is supposed to benefit. It appears, however, that the movement is dominated and largely directed by the large business interests who are anxious to protect themselves against disaffected working classes.

In Germany, for example, Hitler's chief

State Authority" for the whole of West Germany, the most important industrial section of the country, would tend to bear out this conclusion. Thyssen's powers in that part of Germany are virtually dictatorial.

The Religious Issue

Thus, the Hitler revolution has swept over Germany. Representative government and class movements have been banished. The National-Socialist will has been imposed everywhere in the concerted

movement of coördination. Only in one instance has the Hitler government suffered defeat. The Nazi chancellor endeavored to tamper with religion and aroused such a storm of protest that he was obliged to beat a retreat.

Soon after the Nazis came into power it was announced that all the Protestant churches in Germany would be united into a single federation. The churches were willing but wanted to administer their own affairs and there was considerable resentment when Hitler imposed his own Dr. Mueller as Reichsbishop. The real revolt did not develop, however, until a radical movement, supported by Dr. Mueller, attempted to force a reform of the German churches along the lines of a new German Christian religion which would be anti-Jewish and united with the government. The revolt became so intense that Hitler was forced to announce that the churches were to be left absolutely free to solve their own problems. Dr. Mueller withdrew his connection with the German Christians and the movement seemed about to collapse.

That the incident turned out in this way is fortunate for the internal peace of Germany. The German Christians wished to merge the Protestant and Catholic religions into a single new German religion. Naturally Germany's 20,000,000 Catholics became alarmed, and had the German Christians gained the upper hand it might have marked the beginning of bitter religious strife in Germany.

The Catholics already feel uneasy under the Nazi régime. Although Hitler is himself a Catholic there are numerous complaints that Catholics are being discriminated against in Germany. It is known that the pope is displeased with the results of the Concordat, recently signed between Germany and the Holy See. According to the agreement the Catholic churches of Germany were to be unhampered in their religious activities, if, in turn, they took no part in politics. The Catholic Center party accordingly was dissolved, but it is charged that the government is not living up to its part of the Concordat.

Economic Program

Now that Hitler has succeeded in consolidating his position in Germany, interest naturally centers on his economic program to cope with the problems of depression. The government is endeavoring to reduce unemployment by a five-point program adopted in June. The chief feature of the measure is the expenditure of \$250,000,000 for public works. Section two provides tax exemptions for individuals or firms making expenditures for the replacement of worn machinery; section three permits deductions from income taxes for voluntary contributions made to help fight unemployment; section four looks to the return of women to the household whenever their jobs can be handled by men; and section five provides for loans to marrying couples on condition that the woman does not seek work.

Prior to this the Hitler government had authorized a \$500,000,000 program of public works and had declared a compulsory labor law for all young men in the Reich. By means of these and other measures unemployment has been reduced by about 2,000,000 and now stands at 3,851,000.

Hitler's program is vague, however, and political developments have interfered with its effectiveness. The public works appropriations have hardly been used and no real benefit has been derived from this source. In addition, the campaign against the Jews has been a disturbing factor in Germany's business life.

It is too early to tell whether Hitler will succeed in solving Germany's economic problems. He has so far been obliged to devote most of his energy to the consolidation of his power. It is only now that he is in a position to take effective action to restore German prosperity. Hitler is confident he can accomplish this, and a great majority of the German people seem to give him their enthusiastic support.

IN DECEMBER 15 the government was obliged to borrow \$950,000,000. It did this by selling bonds. Those who feared that the government's credit was not good, that people would not lend their money to it, watched this date closely. Could the bonds be sold? They were offered for sale about a week before December 15 and were immediately oversubscribed. There were three times as many requests for the bonds as there were bonds to be sold. They were bought by banks and other financial institutions.

Why were bankers willing to buy the bonds, to lend their money to the government at 2½ per cent, to be paid back in a year? Is there not danger that money may be worth less in a year than it is now? There is, of course, that possibility, but this action of the bankers indicated that they had no great fear of depreciation of the dollar. And here is another consideration. If they did not lend their surplus money to the government, what else would they do with it? They are afraid to lend it to private business, thinking such loans unsafe. Furthermore, they will not be greatly hurt if the dollar does depreciate. They will still get back the same number of dollars that they have loaned and their own creditors, the persons to whom they owe money, can be paid back with these same dollars. So whatever way one looks at it, the risk did not seem too great.

Budget Problems

President Roosevelt and his advisers are busy now preparing next year's budget. They are deciding what the government should spend during the year and how the money shall be obtained. When the plans are worked out they will be presented to Congress, which meets in January. It is a foregone conclusion that certain kinds of taxes will be raised.



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LEWIS W.
DOUGLAS

The income taxes, for example, will no doubt be higher. Liquor taxes will be imposed as high as they can be levied without giving encouragement to bootleggers. Of course, if the liquor taxes are placed very high so as to increase greatly the price of legal liquor, illegal liquor sellers, who do not pay the taxes and who are therefore able to sell more cheaply, may thrive and we may have a bootlegging problem despite the repeal of prohibition.

The making of the budget is much more, however, than a problem of raising money. Decisions must be made as to what the government will spend and this involves decisions about the entire program by which the administration plans to continue its battle against the depression. Conservatives, like Budget Director Douglas, would have the government curtail its spending for public building and housing and other relief measures. Liberals in the administration consider these recovery measures more essential than a cutting of the government's expenses. And so a battle, hidden from the public, is going on in administration circles these days over the course that is to be followed. To a considerable extent the lines are drawn for a contest between the Left and the Right (see AMERICAN OBSERVER, December 13). Those who lean to the Left naturally favor greater expenditures for relief and for assistance in recovery. Those who lean to the Right are for governmental economy, a balanced budget and cutting down governmental activity.

Again a Colony

Newfoundland, hitherto one of the self-governing British dominions, has lost its right of self-government. This has happened as a result of political scandals in the province and of a hopeless financial situation. The British House of Commons has taken action withdrawing self-government temporarily and placing Newfoundland under the control of a governor and commissioner appointed by the king on advice of the British cabinet.

N. A. M. and N. R. A.

The appearance of General Johnson before a convention of the National Association of Manufacturers was rather dramatic, because this association has been considered hostile to the administration's

program. These leading manufacturers have in the past held out against the recognition of labor unions and against the interference of the government in the regulation of business. General Johnson declared that all employers who treated labor fairly and who did not support "sweat shops" should stand by the NRA. He said that the Roosevelt dollar was the soundest in the world, that the budget had been balanced, that uncontrolled inflation was not in sight. He said that there must be shorter working hours in order to take up the slack in unemployment, that industry was not yet ready for shorter hours, but that they might be forced upon industry by extremists if the employers did not get behind Roosevelt policies. The next day this convention of the N.A.M. declared its support of the main features of the Roosevelt program.

Journalistic Landmark Survives

The New York *Evening Post*, oldest New York newspaper, which lately has had a hard time and has been threatened with discontinuance, has been purchased by J. David Stern, owner of the Philadelphia *Record*, and will be operated as an independent paper supporting the Roosevelt administration and liberal policies. This paper has had an interesting history. It was founded by Alexander Hamilton in 1801. Among its editors were William Cullen Bryant, noted poet, and E. L. Godkin, one of the most famous of American editors. It was owned a while by Oswald Garrison Villard, now one of the owners of the *Nation*. Lately the *Evening Post* has been one of the Curtis publications.

Training for Careers

An educational program has been worked out for the 300,000 young men in the Civilian Conservation Corps. The program calls for government employment of 1,446 educational advisers. These advisers will be sent into the conservation camps to train the young men for careers. Robert Fechner, director of Emergency Conservation Work, in announcing the plan, said: "It is the hope of the president that by teaching forestry, agriculture and like subjects we will assist the men in readjusting themselves to a new mode of living—to country instead of city life—and to assist them generally in improving themselves educationally and vocationally."

Lindberghs Span Ocean

Colonel and Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh flew across the South Atlantic from West Africa to Brazil on December 6. They brought down their plane at Natal sixteen hours after taking off. Greeted enthusiastically by large crowds, the flyers declined to reveal their next destination. The next day, however, they began the first leg of their flight homeward.

Frank C. Walker

On page eight of this paper we tell about the newly created National Emergency Council, which has for its purpose the co-ordination of all local activities of the recovery program. At the head of this Council is Frank C. Walker, a close friend of President Roosevelt.



© U. & U.
FRANK C.
WALKER

Mr. Walker hails from Montana, where he started a law practice that won him a fortune some years ago. He served as counsel for some of the largest mining companies in the state and eventually landed in New York. There he became a great friend of James A. Farley, though they are decided contrasts in personality. "Jim" is a big, booming energetic man, whereas Mr. Walker is quiet, rather shy and retiring. But the two have this in common—a tremendous admiration for "F. D.," as they call the president, who was then only governor of New York. Professing to know nothing of politics, Mr. Walker pitched into the first real movement to start Mr. Roosevelt toward the

White House. The success of that movement is now political history. Mr. Walker is treasurer of the Democratic National Committee and contributed materially to the financing of the Roosevelt campaign.

Matsuoka

Yosuke Matsuoka was Japan's chief delegate to Geneva when the League of Nations attempted to force the Japanese to yield their position in Manchuria. The Japanese statesman brilliantly defended his country's interest and won a diplomatic victory when the League's efforts were balked.



© Acme
YOSUKE MAT-
SUOKA

Mr. Matsuoka returned to Japan with heightened prestige. His record entitled him to speak on national and international matters with an air of authority. It can be imagined, then, the influence he had on many Japanese when he announced recently that party government was not suited to Japan. He declared his determination to resign his seat in the lower house of parliament, together with his membership in the Seiyukai party, and campaign for a government without parties. "I believe that constitutional government can be carried out only through the unification of the nation without opposition from parties or factions," said Mr. Matsuoka. "The time has come for the Japanese race to carry out an important mission in the interests of world peace and civilization. To prepare for this it is necessary for the nation to bring about general reform."

Italy Issues Threat

The grand council of the Italian Fascist party has decided that Italy will remain in the League of Nations only if the League is radically reformed. Separation of the League covenant from the Treaty of Versailles and a change in methods of procedure to add strength to the leading powers are two of the reforms the Italians demand.

Smaller European nations are bitterly opposed to being stripped of the power they now possess as members of the League. Moreover, England does not like Premier Mussolini's suggestion that an agreement be concluded between Europe's major powers to supersede the League. The English government feels that perhaps the League covenant does need amending in places but that all such amending should be done at Geneva, as provided by the League covenant itself.

Litvinoff in Germany

Maxim Litvinoff, on his return to Russia from his successful mission in America, passed through Germany, stopped a while in Berlin, but did not confer with officials of the German government. This was a surprise to the Nazi leaders, who had been talking of closer relations between Germany and Russia and who had looked upon the visit of Litvinoff to Berlin as the occasion for friendly discussions. The action of the Russian commissar for foreign affairs amounts almost to a snub to Germany and indicates that Russia is not seeking closer cooperation with the Hitler government.

Guide for Consumers

A new publication has recently been issued by the Consumers' Council of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. It is a bulletin called the Consumers' Guide, published every two weeks. The industrial codes, especially for food industries, have caused price changes, and new taxes have caused the prices of farm products to rise. People who must buy these products should have some opportunity to organize and place a curb on prices which rise too high. Also they should be able to get information about the goods they buy—standards of quality, the packages used, and the most economical ways of purchasing. The Consumers' Guide is designed to

give consumers this information. It lists the actual prices of commodities, so that people will not be forced to pay more than the goods are worth. It gives other buying information as well.

Uprisings in Spain

Spain was the scene of a revolutionary outbreak last week. More than fifty Spaniards were killed and scores injured in the various conflicts between government troops and revolutionists. Dissatisfaction with the outcome of the recent national election in Spain was at the root of the trouble. The election resulted in a victory for the conservative parties. This meant that the majority of people in Spain was opposed to the Azaña government's attempt to socialize Spain on a large scale. But a number of Spaniards were so determined that the program of socialization should go forward they adopted revolutionary tactics. The movement did not seem to be organized, however, and the Spanish government was confident of its ability to curb the uprisings.

Money Conversations

It has recently been made public that during the last month or so negotiations have been carried on between the United States and British governments with a view to the stabilization of the two currencies. In these discussions, the American government has been represented by Mr. George L. Harrison, governor of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, while Mr. Montagu Norman, head of the Bank of England, has presented the British point of view.

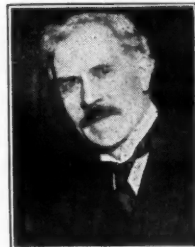
These conversations have failed to bring any definite agreement upon stabilization. It appears that the two countries were unable to come to terms as to the value the currency of each should have in relation to the other. The British are reported as being unwilling to stabilize until the dollar has remained fairly constant in value for some time in order that the proper relationship between the two currencies may be established.

Wives as Witnesses

The United States Supreme Court recently decided that a wife has the right to testify in a federal court in defense of her husband. This decision reverses the customary practice. Hitherto the federal court has adhered to an old rule of common law and has held that a wife, because so directly interested, could not be accepted as a witness for her husband. The new decision will be binding in all federal courts.

MacDonald Upholds Coalition

The national coalition government in England—the government which came into power in 1931—has been strongly attacked of late. There is a growing feeling in England that there is no longer any need for a coalition government, but that the party system should again prevail. The coalition government is also being criticized for not pressing harder for European disarmament. Prime Minister James Ramsay MacDonald, however, denies that the coalition government is letting up in its efforts to bring about disarmament and he also argues that the party system should not be brought back at this time. Here is what he says:



RAMSAY MAC-
DONALD

We seem to be passing through the crisis. The country is recovering. There is some healthy red blood in its cheeks, but some further steps are necessary. Therefore, party fighting is fatal.

Great numbers of you must share the view of the government that peace is a supreme issue if civilization is to last, and perhaps the most reckless of all the attacks upon the government has been upon its peace policy. The government is laboring ardently for peace. Our experience has been that, without the shadow of a doubt, one nation disarming will have no influence upon others. We ourselves have disarmed to the very edge of safety, and our consistent effort has been to get other nations to see that an agreed limit to armaments accompanied by political agreements of non-aggression are the most effective security of peace.

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VOL. III WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1933 NO. 16

NOTICE

This will be the last issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER to appear before the Christmas holidays. Our next date of issue will be January 10. We hope that each of our readers will have a pleasant vacation period and we extend our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Perennial Liquor Problem

The ratification of the twenty-first amendment on December 5 ended the experiment of national prohibition, but it did not solve the problem of the liquor traffic. It did not solve the problem of intemperance. It may have relieved the nation of certain evils incident to the attempt to enforce prohibition upon communities which did not want it. It did not, however, relieve the people of this nation of dangers to life and health and happiness which come as a result of the intemperate use of alcoholic liquors.

The repeal of prohibition has not even rid the nation of the bootlegger. There will always be persons who will sell liquor illegally whenever legal restrictions of any material kind are placed upon the traffic in liquor. When the government attempts to collect taxes upon the sale of alcohol, when it regulates the sale of intoxicating beverages so as to inconvenience those who want to make sales in an unregulated way, there will be violations of law. If the taxes and the licenses raise the price of liquor, there will be people who will sell at a lower price by avoiding payment of taxes and there will be those, calling themselves respectable citizens, who will patronize the bootleggers in order to avoid the payment of taxes and in order to avoid any restraints laid by the law. There will be cases of intemperance. There will be cases of hunger and destitution brought about by the fact that those who should buy bread and clothing spend their money for liquor. There will be many hateful abuses of the right into which the people have now come to purchase intoxicants.

Furthermore, we may expect that in the future, as in the past, those who profit by the liquor traffic will oppose every sort of regulation just as stoutly as they opposed prohibition. We may expect that those who deal in liquors will go into politics in order to shield themselves from restraints of law. We may expect a corrupt alliance of the liquor traffic and dirty politics. There has always been such an alliance and there is no good reason to think that it has been ended.

In the light of these facts, in the light of these dangers and of these problems which we face now that prohibition



JUST A LITTLE REMINDER.

—Shoemaker in Chicago DAILY NEWS

has been repealed, it will be well if all citizens will read carefully and soberly and thoughtfully the appeal made to the people of the United States by President Roosevelt. After having proclaimed the twenty-first amendment to be a part of the Constitution, after having proclaimed the end of prohibition, the president addressed the people of the nation with these words:

Furthermore, I enjoin upon all citizens of the United States and upon others resident within the jurisdiction thereof, to co-operate with the government in its endeavor to restore greater respect for law and order, by confining such purchases of alcoholic beverages as they may make solely to those dealers or agencies which have been duly licensed by state or federal license.

Observance of this request, which I make personally to every individual and every family in our nation, will result in the consumption of alcoholic beverages which have passed federal inspection, in the break-up and eventual destruction of the notoriously evil illicit liquor traffic and in the payment of reasonable taxes for the support of government and thereby in the superseding of other forms of taxation.

I call specific attention to the authority given by the Twenty-first Amendment to the government to prohibit transportation or importation of intoxicating liquors into any state in violation of the laws of such state.

I ask the whole-hearted cooperation of all our citizens to the end that this return of individual freedom shall not be accompanied by the repugnant conditions that obtained prior to the adoption of the eighteenth amendment and those that have existed since its adoption. Failure to do this honestly and courageously will be a living reproach to us all.

I ask especially that no state shall by law or otherwise authorize the return of the saloon either in its old form or in some modern guise.

The policy of the government will be to see to it that the social and political evils that have existed in the pre-prohibition era shall not be revived nor permitted again to exist. We must remove forever from our midst the menace of the bootlegger and such others as would profit at the expense of good government, law and order.

I trust in the good sense of the American people that they will not bring upon themselves the curse of excessive use of intoxicating liquors, to the detriment of health, morals and social integrity.

The objective we seek through a national policy is the education of every citizen towards a greater temperance throughout the nation.

Crime Figures

One of the articles appearing in this week's AMERICAN OBSERVER discusses various aspects of the crime problem in the United States. In a recent editorial, the Philadelphia Inquirer comments upon crime figures made public by Mr. Chet A. Keyes, special assistant United States attorney general. Mr. Keyes declared that the annual crime bill of the United States amounts to \$13,000,000,000. Excerpts from the Inquirer's editorial follow:

Mr. Keyes does not stop at naming the total amount of money taken from the people by the crooks and the gangsters. He goes into detail. He tells us that every year 12,000 persons are murdered, 3,000 are kidnapped, 50,000 are robbed and 100,000 are assaulted. Annually, he declared, 40,000 homes and business places are burglarized. . . . He points out that the illicit traffic in narcotics costs the American people over \$2,000,000,000 a year—five times what it cost to build the Panama Canal.

. . . The amazing thing is that the American people should tolerate this sort of thing for so many years. But we confidently make the prediction that they will not tolerate it much longer. The force of public opinion is being aroused in every section of the country, and when it has crystallized it will move with resistless force against the enemies of law and order. The prohibition era was a fruitful one for the bootleggers, the crooks, the racketeers and the gangsters. When the people became convinced that prohibition was a source of crime and corruption they repealed the law. Having done that they will not put up with criminals who thrived upon that law.

It takes a long time to rouse the people in this country, but once they do wake up they have the enthusiasm, the will, and the determination to make the punishment fit the crime. Mr. Keyes says mournfully that crime is still increasing. We do not share his pessimism. We believe that a change for the better has already started and that, backed by a stern public opinion, conditions will continue to improve.

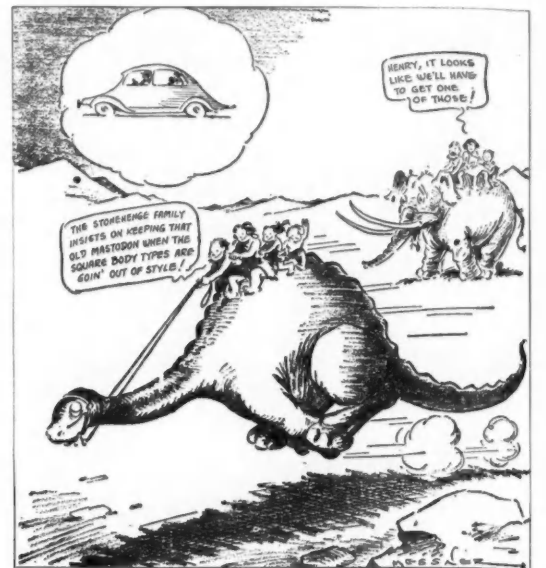
Food and Drug Law

Hearings on the proposed new Food and Drug law, drafted by Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Rexford G. Tugwell, have now begun before a committee of the Senate, and, as predicted three weeks ago in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, a sharp controversy has arisen over the merits of the proposed law. In the light of the importance and controversial nature of this measure, the following comment from the Canning Trade, representing one of the industries affected by the bill, is highly significant:

There are those who say that the new law is too strong, too drastic, too rigid, and the extremists even go so far as to say that it will drive them completely out of business, and they are bitter in their attacks upon the drafters and proponents of the new law.

You who are old in this business and can recall the days, back in 1905-06, when the original pure food law was proposed and debated, will find in these utterances a faint echo of similar bitter protests against the original pure food law. Before its passage, our industry lined up with the opponents, and there were those who predicted the end of the canning industry; that Dr. Wiley was an extremist and crank and should not be allowed his way, etc., etc. They were worse in their accusations against the first proposed law than are the opponents today.

But is there any man in the food industry that would be willing to scrap the pure food laws today? Not a single sensible man! And as history has a habit of repeating itself, you may expect to see the same results in this instance, because



STREAMLINES ARE NOT EXACTLY NEW.

—Messner in Washington News

the proponents of the new law have had the experiences of the old one to go on; they are not dealing in the dark, not striving to hurt the food and drug business, but aiming to correct abuses and to help, not harm. And that is right in line with the temper of our people and of our legislators. So the new law will be enacted, because it is needed.

Business Outlook

There seems to be a quite general feeling among students of business conditions and trends that the outlook for the immediate future is bright, although perhaps not glamorous. The following analysis by the Business Week is characteristic of the attitude of a number of trade journals:

Business men are feeling distinctly better and not just because cocktail hour has arrived, nor just because the death of sound money now seems to have been greatly exaggerated. Holiday trade is gathering more momentum than the most sanguine expected a month ago. The steel barometer shows signs of rising under the pressure of public projects, rail orders and a host of miscellaneous demands now reaching the contract stage. Automobile makers are cheerfully confident that sales will climb that steeper price grade on which Ford has started the procession this week. The construction industry is smiling over the news that November awards reached the highest levels since October, 1931, with public works and utility contracts breaking all records for the month. Coal gets some help from federal relief purchases but is not enthusiastic about the price concessions. Power consumption reflects the holiday respite and utilities are upset about the demand for lower rates, the encouragement given to municipal plants. Settlement of the long-drawn-out silk strike and evidences of greater stability in their field encourages textile manufacturers. Though commodities have gone up, farm prices are still lagging. But Wall Street is beginning to think favorably of earnings again—and so is industry.

A mastodon's tooth found in Kansas weighs twenty-one pounds. Extinction of this animal may be traced to the impossibility of surviving more than one toothache.

—New York SUN

The Russian pilot who dropped 23,000 feet before opening the parachute seems in a good position to tell about the back-to-the-land movement.

—Christian Science Monitor

The opportunist is happy when he is on the way, while the realist is happy only when he has thought through where he is going.

—Benjamin Stolberg

Outdoor work on the farm is about over for the year, and the farmers can now give serious thought to the question of what not to raise.

—Albany KNICKERBOCKER PRESS

Mussolini seems to become more modest, possibly from listening to Hitler and learning how it sounds.

—Fort Wayne NEWS-SENTINEL

All nations are marching toward the battlefield, with the dove of peace embroidered on their banners.

—David Lloyd George

Packers say that the cow has four hundred by-products, which helps to account for hash.

—Philadelphia EVENING BULLETIN

Indianapolis is getting rid of the last of her wood-block paving. It is inconvenient to have to gather up a street after every hard rain.

—Toledo BLADE.

Which do you value more, your liberty or your material prosperity? There is no point in beating about the bush.

—Senator Carter Glass

List of Christmas Books Offers Wide Selection in Many Fields

WE are listing this week a number of the more important literary contributions that have appeared during the last few months in order that our readers may have a selection for reading during the holidays or for suitable Christmas gifts.

Fiction

ANTHONY ADVERSE, by Hervey Allen (Farrar & Rinehart. \$3). Adventure and romance; one of the best novels of the year.

AS THE EARTH TURNS, by Gladys Hasty Carroll (Macmillan. \$2.50). New England country life.

LITTLE MAN, WHAT NOW? by Hans Fallada (Simon & Schuster. \$2.50). Story of young German couple in midst of the depression.

WITHIN THIS PRESENT, by Margaret Ayer Barnes (Houghton Mifflin. \$2.50). About a Chicago family from the war to the present.

LIVINGSTONES, by Derrick Leon (Day. \$2.50). Modern and fashionable London society.

VANESSA, by Hugh Walpole (Doubleday, Doran. \$2.50). English family from 1874 to 1930.

KINGDOM COMING, by Roark Bradford (Harpers. \$2.50). Civil War from Negro viewpoint.

LAMB IN HIS BOSOM, by Caroline Miller (Harpers. \$2). Back-country Georgia before the Civil War.

BONFIRE, by Dorothy Canfield (Harcourt, Brace. \$2.50). Village life in Vermont.

OIL FOR THE LAMPS OF CHINA, by Alice T. Hobart (Bobbs, Merrill. \$2.50). Experiences of American couple in China.

THE DISINHERITED, by Jack Conroy (Covici-Friede. \$2). Story of American workers.

LONG PENNANT, by Oliver LaFarge (Houghton Mifflin. \$2.50). Privateering.

THE OLD MAN DIES, by Elizabeth Sprigge (Macmillan. \$2.50). A moving story of family life in the modern world.

THE FIRST WIFE AND OTHER STORIES, by Pearl S. Buck (Day. \$2.50). Short stories about China.

NO MORE TRUMPETS, by George Milburn (Harcourt, Brace. \$2.50). Excellent collection of short stories by one of America's best writers.

Biography

THE MAN OF THE RENAISSANCE, by Ralph Roeder (Viking. \$3.50). Four outstanding Italian characters, Machiavelli, Savonarola, Castiglione, Aretino.

MARTIN LUTHER, GERMANY'S ANGRY MAN, by Abram Lipsky (Stokes \$3). Excellent appraisal of father of the Reformation.

SAMUEL PEPYS, THE MAN IN THE MAKING, by Arthur Bryant (Macmillan. \$3). First volume of more extensive work.

TESTAMENT OF YOUTH, by Vera Brittain (Macmillan. \$2.50). Life of English woman during war and post-war period.

JOHN HAY, by Tyler Dennett (Dodd, Mead. \$5). Probably best biography of famous secretary of state.

BARE HANDS AND STONE WALLS, by Charles Edward Russell (Scribners. \$3). Autobiography of a life-long reformer.

BENVENUTO CELLINI AND HIS FLORENTINE DAGGER, by Victor Thaddeus (Farrar & Rinehart. \$3.50). Easy reading and complete biography of renowned Renaissance sculptor.

MELLON'S MILLIONS, by Harvey O'Connor (Day. \$2). Story of one of America's most gigantic fortunes.

THE DARK INVADER, by Franz von Rintelen (Macmillan. \$2). The experiences of a German secret agent in America during the war.

LAND OF THE SPOTTED EAGLE, by Chief Standing Bear (Houghton Mifflin. \$3). Famous Indian chief's own story.

ANDREW JACKSON: THE BORDER CAPTAIN, by Marquis James (Bobbs, Merrill. \$3.75). Excellent.

Economics and Recovery Program

BUSINESS UNDER THE RECOVERY ACT, by Vallenstein and Weiss (McGraw-Hill. \$2.50).

LABOR RELATIONS UNDER THE RECOVERY ACT, by Tead and Metcalf (McGraw-Hill. \$2). Thorough discussion of main aspects of NRA.

DOLLARS AND SENSE, by Irving Brant (Day. \$1.50). Clear and concise discussion of fundamental monetary problems.

THE ROOSEVELT REVOLUTION, by Ernest K. Lindley (Viking. \$2.50). The best treatment of the first seven months of the New Deal.

INSECURITY; A CHALLENGE TO AMERICA, by Abraham Epstein (Smith & Haas. \$4). Elaboration of reforms needed to bring security.

THE STORY OF MONEY, by Norman Angell (Garden City Book Co. \$1).

THE GREAT TECHNOLOGY, by Harold Rugg (Day. \$2.50). Discussion of problems created by machine age.

THE INDUSTRIAL DISCIPLINE AND THE GOVERNMENTAL ARTS, by Rexford G. Tugwell (Columbia. \$2.50). Philosophy of one of President Roosevelt's leading advisers.

THE ECONOMICS OF RECOVERY, by Leonard P. Ayres (Macmillan. \$1.75).

OUR ECONOMIC REVOLUTION, by Arthur B. Adams (U. of Okla. \$1.50). Economic aspects of Roosevelt program.

Foreign Countries and International Relations

FIRST TO GO BACK, by Irina Skariatina (Bobbs, Merrill. \$2.75). Experiences of a Russian aristocrat among the Communists.

CRY HAVOC, by Beverly Nichols (Doubleday, Doran. \$2.50). An exposé of the armaments manufacturers and an appeal for pacifism.

GERMANY—TWILIGHT OR NEW DAWN? anonymous (McGraw-Hill. \$2). An excellent treatise on Hitlerism.

THE INTELLIGENT MAN'S REVIEW OF EUROPE TODAY, by G. D. H. Cole and Margaret Cole (Knopf. \$3). A complete picture of present-day Europe.

MENACE OF FASCISM, by John Strachey (Covici-Friede. \$2.25). An examination of the political and economic theories of Fascism.

IMPRESSIONS OF SOUTH AMERICA, by André Siegfried (Harcourt, Brace. \$3). Light and colorful appraisal after trip to various South American countries.

THE SPIRIT OF FRANCE, by Paul Cohen-Portheim (Dutton. \$3). Philosophical analysis of French characteristics.

THE GREAT OFFENSIVE, by Maurice Hindus (Smith & Haas. \$3). Bringing the Russian experiment up to date.

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME, by H. G. Wells (Macmillan. \$2.50). Prophecy of future history of world.

GERMANY ENTERS THE THIRD REICH, by Calvin B. Hoover (Macmillan. \$2.50). One of the best.

THE CRIME OF CUBA, by Carlton Beals (Lippincott. \$3). An excellent discussion of American influence in Cuba.

History and Government

AMERICA THROUGH WOMAN'S EYES, by Mary R. Beard (Macmillan. \$3.50). Woman in American history.

PEACEMAKING, by Harold Nicolson (Houghton Mifflin. \$4.50). Intimate experiences at the Paris Peace Conference.

THE AMERICAN PROCESSION, by Agnes Rogers and Frederick Lewis Allen (Harpers. \$2.75). From the Civil War in pictures.

OVER HERE, by Mark Sullivan (Scribners. \$3.75). Fifth volume of Our Times.

THE WORLD SINCE 1914, by Walter C. Langsam (Macmillan. \$4). One of the best histories of the world since the war.

THE STORY OF THE BORGHIAS, by L. Collison-Morley (Dutton. \$3.95). Fine picture of Italy during Renaissance.

A CENTURY OF PROGRESS, edited by Charles A. Beard (Harpers. \$3). A symposium of American accomplishments during the last hundred years.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR, by Laurence Stallings (Simon & Schuster. \$3.50). The War in pictures.

Adventure and Description

JUNGLE MEMORIES, by Henry H. Rusby (McGraw-Hill. \$3.50). About the jun-

gles in various parts of South American continent.

HUDSON RIVER LANDINGS, by Paul Wilstach (Bobbs, Merrill. \$3.75). Interesting and beautifully illustrated.

THE LOG OF THE BETSY ANN, by Frederick Way, Jr. (McBride. \$2.75). Boating on the Mississippi.

LONDON ZOO, by Gertrude Gleeson (McBride. \$2). Will appeal to those who like animals.

AN INDISCREET ITINERARY, by Henrik Willem Van Loon (Harcourt, Brace. \$1). A travel book on Holland.

YONDER LIES ADVENTURE, by E. Alexander Powell (Macmillan. \$3). Autobiography of a world adventurer.

Science and Social Problems

SEEDS OF REVOLT, by Mauritz A. Hallgren (Knopf. \$2.50). An analysis of the discontent resulting from the depression.

BEHIND THE DOCTOR, by Logan Clendenen (Knopf. \$3.75). The history of medicine.

FIGHTING THE INSECTS, by L. O. Howard (Macmillan. \$2.50). Experiences of one of the country's leading entomologists.

THE TRAGEDY OF LYNCHING, by Arthur Raper (Univ. of N. C. \$2.50). History of lynching in the United States.

THE HUMAN PROBLEMS OF AN INDUSTRIAL CIVILIZATION, by Elton Mayo (Macmillan. \$2).

Miscellaneous

BLACK ON WHITE, by M. Ilin (Lippincott. \$1.50). History of printing.

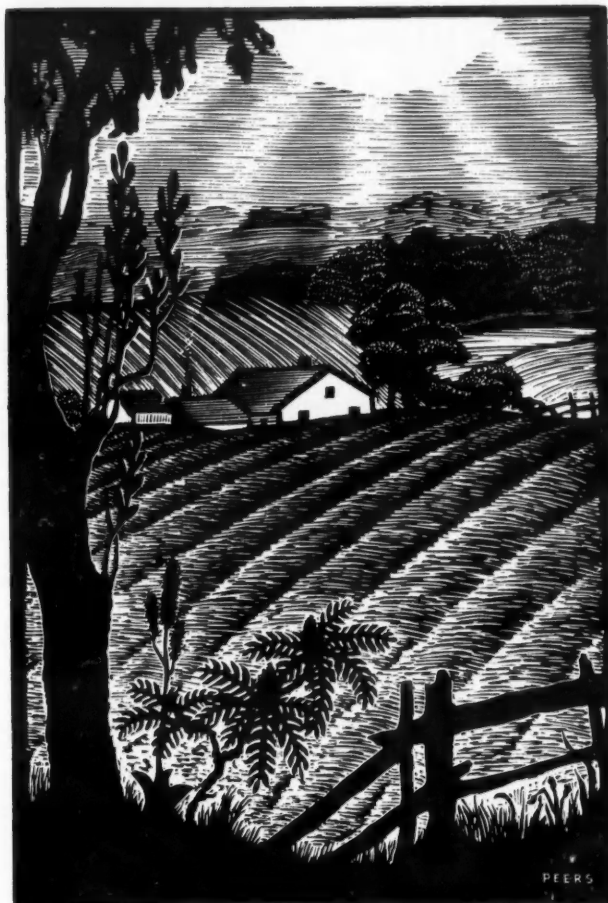
WHAT TIME IS IT? by M. Ilin (Lippincott. \$1.50). History of clocks and watches.

100,000 WHYS, by M. Ilin (Lippincott. \$1.50). A book of practical questions and answers.

THE ART OF THE NOVEL, by Pelham Edgar (Macmillan. \$3). Evolution of the novel since 1700.

THE ART OF ENJOYING MUSIC, by Sigmund Spaeth (McGraw-Hill. \$2.50).

MUSIC AND ITS LOVERS, by Vernon Lee (Dutton. \$5).



FROM THE JACKET COVER OF "AS THE EARTH TURNS."



FROM THE JACKET COVER OF "LIVINGSTONES"

Yuletide in Sweden Made Occasion for Elaborate Celebration and Feast

The yuletide is surrounded by picturesque customs everywhere. Dipping back into history—even pagan history before the Christian era gave rise to Christmas—many nations have drawn material from which they have molded their observances of the Nativity. Here in the United States our celebration is rather simple, centering around lighted trees, gift-giving, carols, and the telling of the story of Christmas. Other countries have their own particular customs in addition to these.

If we wished to spend the Christmas season in Sweden we would be compelled to turn back the calendar to December 13, for that is the day on which this Scandinavian nation begins its celebration. All through this fairy-tale land of fjords, lakes, waterfalls, mountains and castles, St. Lucia's day ushers in the yuletide.

An Ancient Legend

Long ago, the night before December 13 was said to be the longest night of the year. In the dark morning hours, legend has it, Lucia, the saint of light, came to waken the people with lights and to bring them coffee and sweetbreads. Since then, at this season of the year a young girl is chosen to play St. Lucia in each home and hospital. She wears a long white flowing robe made especially for the occasion, and on her head is a wreath of green leaves in which have been placed tiny lighted candles. Sometimes she is attended by little children wearing high white hats and carrying wands with stars on them. This little "St. Lucia" performs the duty said to have been started by the saint. In the dark morning hours of December 13 she goes about the house or hospital waking the sleeping people and giving them coffee and sweetbreads.

Santa Claus comes to the homes of Sweden on the day before Christmas. Real preparation is made for his coming. First of all, the men of the family go out into the snow-clad mountains where true Christmas trees grow in abundance—pine, fir, spruce. A large one is selected and taken home where it is set up in the dining-room. Members of the family trim it with glittering tinsel and tiny tapers. Stockings are hung near the fireplace. On a small table nearby has been arranged a miniature replica of the Nativity. There is a

manger in which has been laid a doll representing the Christ child. Figures of Mary and Joseph are placed beside it, and at a little distance there are images of the three wise men bearing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Christmas Eve

Then the doors to the dining-room are closed until Christmas Eve. Meanwhile preparations are completed for the feast to be held at that time. Corn has been strewn on the window-sills for the birds. The animals are given special feed in their stalls. And people go about distributing gifts to the poor.

When Christmas Eve draws on, the doors to the dining-room are thrown open. There stands the monarch of Sweden's forests, glittering with tinsel and lights, and laden with gifts. Packages are opened, stockings raided, and then there is dancing about the tree accompanied by the singing of the carols. Then to the feast.

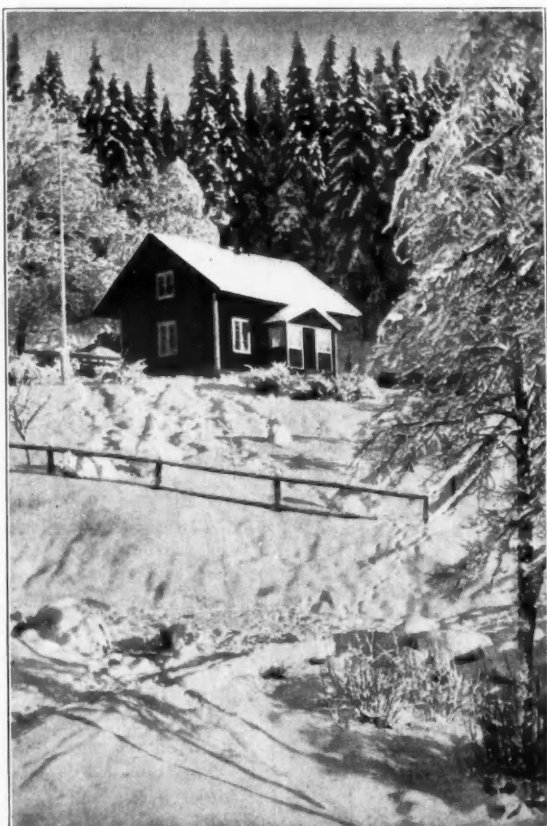
In some parts of Sweden this Christmas Eve feast is held in the kitchen of the home. The place has been scoured and put in readiness for the gala occasion. The huge table in the center has been piled with all sorts of delectable Christmas foods. In addition to the foods that are usually thought of in connection with a Christmas celebration, there are several other things which Swedish people prepare especially for this event. A special Christmas ale is brewed. A preparation of dried lutefisk is made of a fish resembling somewhat the cod, and eaten with peas, mustard, and butter. Ham and special cakes are also served.

Good Fellowship

Where this feast is eaten in the kitchen the servants sit about the table mingling with the family. This is to evidence the Christmas spirit of good fellowship. Sometime during the meal each person goes to the huge pot of gravy that is kept boiling on the stove and dips his bread into it. This likewise is meant to signify good fellowship.

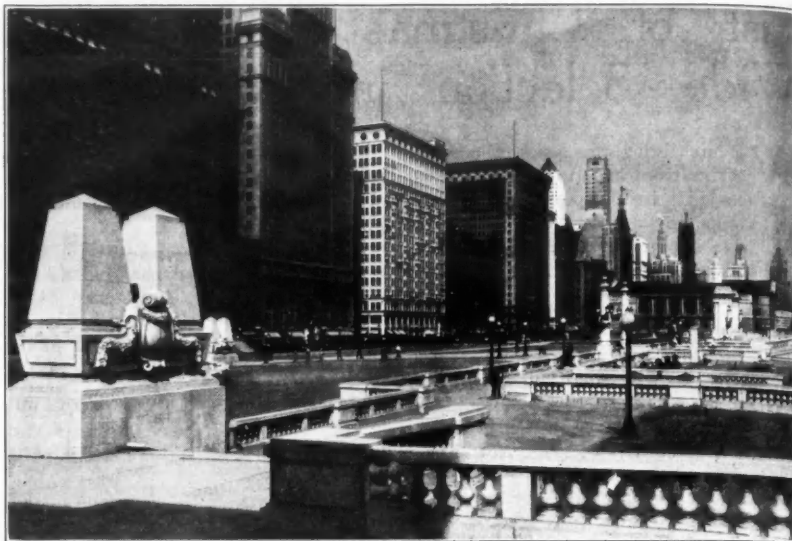
After hours of this Christmas celebration the Swedish people retire, only to arise in the dark hours of the early morning to attend special services in their churches. At this time, lighted candles have been placed in the windows all along the way, and it is a pretty sight to watch the line of worshippers going across the frozen snows, guided by the tiny flickering lights in the Christmas windows of Sweden.

The sixth annual essay contest for high school juniors and seniors sponsored by the Gorgas Memorial Institute, was announced last week by the president of the institute, Admiral Cary T. Grayson. This year the subject of the contest essay will be "Past Benefits and Future Importance to Man of the Control of Disease-bearing Mosquitoes." Winners in each high school and each state will receive prizes, and state winners will qualify for the national contest. The national winner will receive \$500 in cash, and a travel allowance of \$200 to Washington to receive the prize. Full information regarding the contest may be obtained by writing to the institute at 1331 G Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.



—From Sweden Illustrated

A SMALL, HILLSIDE HOME IN SWEDEN



© Ewing Galloway

THE MODERN AMERICAN CITY PRESENTS A PROBLEM IN MANAGERSHIP

City Manager Government Plan Enables Many Communities to Weather Severe Financial Storms

Four years of depression have precipitated a crisis in city government. Tax collections have become more and more difficult. Many municipalities have borrowed millions of dollars which they cannot repay with their present reduced incomes. Budgets are unbalanced; in many cases teachers and other city employees are unpaid for months at a time. Many of these financial difficulties arise from the graft and corruption of political machines which have controlled city governments. Tax money was wasted during the prosperous years, with no thought of the future. Huge bond issues were floated without much attention from voters and taxpayers, who are now faced with the task of paying for them.

Never has the value of efficient municipal administration been more apparent than during the present time of financial strain. The experience of most cities leads to the conclusion that efficient government comes only when the public is sufficiently aroused to act toward that end. The average citizen has the power to remedy the evils of local government, if he joins with other public-spirited people in voting for the right type of administration.

The people of more than 450 American cities believe that the city manager plan of government is the best type of municipal control. This plan originated about twenty years ago, and has gained in favor and reputation steadily since that time. Of every five American cities with a population of 10,000 or more, one now utilizes the city manager plan. The list includes such cities as Cincinnati, Dayton, and Springfield in Ohio, Pasadena, Long Beach, and Sacramento in California, Rochester, New York, Norfolk, Virginia, and Knoxville, Tennessee.

One of the chief virtues of the city manager plan is its simplicity. The voters elect a small city council, usually with from five to nine members. The council in turn appoints the city manager, a trained administrator. The manager acts as the city executive, appointing all heads of city departments, subject only to civil service regulations. The entire system is nonpolitical. In many cases the city manager is hired without any knowledge of his political beliefs.

Usually the manager comes from another city. City management has become a recognized profession, with trained men entering it each year. The city manager acts for a city in the same way as a general manager acts for a corporation. His work is a business, not a political activity.

Responsibility is centralized in the manager, so that either credit or blame may be placed upon the proper shoulders. Under the old political system, in which a mayor and city council direct the affairs of a city, sometimes as many as a hundred officials may be concerned in a specific

matter. With the city manager system, no such division of interest is possible. The result is more direct action, a quicker response to the needs of the people, and the elimination of "buck-passing" and red tape.

Cities using this plan have not been immune to the financial troubles of hard times. But on the whole they have weathered the storm far better than such examples of old-style political control as New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and others. Their budgets are sounder; their tax rates are almost universally lower; they get more value from every tax dollar. The city manager plan enables them to adopt city planning and zoning laws more readily. Their executives have been able to avoid the evils of special privilege in awarding contracts for construction and other city work.

Cincinnati is perhaps the outstanding example of a successful city government directed by a manager. The tax rate there has been lowered, and municipal finances are in excellent shape. It should be noted, however, that the good fortune of this Ohio city and others like it has been due not only to the city manager system, but to an aroused public interest as well. The attention of voters to every municipal problem is necessary for any efficient city government.

ROOSEVELT AND LIQUOR TAXATION

Plans for legislation on liquor taxation are being considered by two congressional committees—the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. When these two committees began their study of liquor taxation, President Roosevelt called congressional leaders to the White House to give them his opinions on this problem. He said that Congress should make revenue a secondary consideration in determining the rate of liquor taxation. If too high taxes are imposed on liquor at this time, the president said, bootlegging would most certainly flourish. He recommended, therefore, taxes high enough to insure a fair amount of revenue and at the same time low enough to make bootlegging unprofitable.

VITAMINS OR TOOTHBRUSHES?

What causes teeth to decay? There is considerable difference of opinion among dentists as to the answer to this question. A great many dentists contend that suitable diet is the best preventive of tooth decay. Dr. Thaddeus P. Hyatt, however, speaking before a large gathering of dentists in New York City, expressed his opinion that decay was caused by lack of cleanliness alone. He declared that if teeth were cleaned regularly they would not decay regardless of a person's diet.

Attention Focused on Problem of Crime

(Concluded from page 1, column 1)

highly inadequate. What figures there are must come naturally from the authorities in the various states and localities. There is no central authority, as in other countries, which gathers and publishes full and trustworthy figures on the subject. And, quite naturally, some communities have fairly exhaustive statistics which give a complete picture, while others provide figures that are totally unreliable. Thus, when President Hoover's Committee on Social Trends endeavored to present a comprehensive study of the subject, it was obliged to admit that it was under a great handicap because of this deficiency.

Moreover, since the statistics on crime must necessarily come from police and court records which indicate the number of individuals detected and tried for various infractions of the law, the record is still incomplete. Many of the most serious offenders are never rounded up by the police or brought to trial with the result that only guesses can be made on this phase of the subject. But despite these limitations, certain conclusions have been reached by authorities on crime which give a fair indication of the state of affairs in the United States. It is generally recognized, for example, that there is more crime in this country than in almost any other. One writer on the subject, Mr. Edward Hale Bierstadt, in an article appearing in *Harper's* some time ago, has drawn a rather graphic comparison in the following terms:

America maintains an army of half a million police, judicial and enforcement officials, to stand off an opposing army of two million criminals. In this endless war there are twelve thousand five hundred fatalities a year.

In Chicago—that jungle of the underworld—six policemen are shot for every criminal who is hanged. There are thirty-six more chances of being held up and robbed in New York than in London, and in Chicago the chances are one hundred. The New York burglar has thirteen chances to one in his favor. In London the odds are ten to one against him. In 1918, to cite a typical year, all of England and Wales together had 154 cases of homicide, murder and manslaughter. During the same period, New York City alone had 221 cases, and Chicago 222. We may have made America safe for democracy, but we certainly haven't made it safe for the law-abiding citizen.

A Crime Wave?

While it is an undeniable fact that America's crime record is extremely bad and much worse than that of other countries,

it does not necessarily follow that the extent of crime is increasing all the time and that we are now in the midst of an exceptionally violent crime wave. The facts would indicate the contrary; that is, that crime is extensive now, but that it has always been very great. The Hoover committee report referred to—perhaps one of the most dependable investigations ever made of the subject of the crime—came to the following conclusion after analyzing all the pertinent data:

No support is found for the belief that an immense crime wave has engulfed the United States. The number of arrests and of court cases per 100,000 population increased moderately from 1900 to 1930, with a tendency to rise more rapidly after 1920 than before. A large part, however, of the increase in the last decade is explained by traffic cases, which increased at approximately the same rate as automobile registrations. Arrests and prosecutions for major crimes increased even less rapidly than the rates for minor crimes and in many of the series reached a level about 1925. Prosecutions in federal courts were fairly constant from 1900 to 1917, after which an enormous increase occurred, but this was due principally to the large number of liquor cases. Federal cases, also, reached a level about 1923 and have not changed significantly since that date. The record of crimes known to the police, which is potentially the best index of the number of serious crimes, shows a slightly lower rate in 1931 than in 1930. These figures do not indicate that crime has swept over the country like a tidal wave. Rather the movement of these indexes resembles the gradual rise of the level of a body of water. The rate of increase is more rapid than in such geological processes but the general effect is analogous. This gradual and continuous rise is what would be expected on theoretical grounds, if the number of social factors cited in the introduction of this chapter were functioning together over a period of time.

Encouraging as this and similar conclusions by other crime investigations may be, they should not be misinterpreted and lead one to the belief that we have no serious crime problem. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that we are confronted with a grave problem. The fact that it is not particularly a new phenomenon in American life does not detract from its importance. But, in order to strike effectively at this cancer in the life of the nation, it is necessary to examine some of the more outstanding causes of crime. And on this aspect of the subject, authorities are by no means in agreement.

Frontier Influence

It may be said that in the main the primary causes of crime in this country are threefold and of a social, racial and political nature. While some authorities would deny it, it is fairly generally accepted that one of the primary causes of the exceptionally heavy crime record of the United States is the very nature of our national life. America, perhaps more than any other country on earth, has had a changing society. In the earlier period, there was the constant movement to new frontiers and the people were imbued with the pioneering spirit. Often social outcasts moved to unsettled sections of the country where they were able to start life anew. This gave rise to a spirit of freedom and in many instances to a determination to take the law into their own hands. Thus, the people felt themselves independent of authority and law and found it difficult to respect legal restraints that came to be placed upon them.

With the closing of the frontier, American society has perhaps grown more static than during the earlier period, but it is still far from settled. With the agricultural crisis large numbers of individuals

have moved from the rural to the urban sections of the country where they have been confronted with an entirely new set of social and economic conditions. Such a movement of population, accentuated still further during the present depression by the shifting of industrial workers from one community to another, is not conducive to stability but engenders a feeling of restlessness.

Economic Conditions

It is further maintained with considerable cogency that the very conditions under which large sections of the American people are obliged to live are at the bottom of the crime problem. Those adhering to this belief contend that we shall never stamp out crime until we alter the economic conditions of the people, providing a greater amount of security and more satisfactory social surroundings. As Charles E. Merriam, one of the outstanding authorities on crime in the United States, has pointed out:

The attack upon the crime problem . . . must go far deeper down than the surface of repressive police activity into the levels of human nature affected by the new urban environment. Unattractive living conditions, the stress of an intensive mechanical age, the lack of sufficient attention to recreation facilities and the use of leisure time; all these are of prime importance in any study of social maladjustments and of social deviates and deviations. In many ways, the place of the old-time policeman is being taken by the modern technician in various forms of social service, and there is good reason to believe that this process will continue for some time to come. Schools, housing, recreation, medicine, and social science on its preventive side will loom larger and larger as we go along.

This same point of view is expressed vividly by the popular writer, Heywood Brown, who, writing recently in the *New York World-Telegram*, makes the following pertinent observations:

The one great cause of crime is poverty. Look into the case history of all criminals and in a large majority of the cases you will find that you are dealing with a human being who was undernourished, undereducated, warped and ruined by his inability to cope with a fiercely competitive world for which he was wholly unfitted. . . .

I can take anybody to certain blocks in large American cities and point to crowded sidewalks and dark doorways swarming with boys and girls just learning to walk. And I can say with complete truthfulness:—"Here is your kindergarten for San Quentin. Meet some members of the freshman class of 1950 at Sing Sing. Here is abject, grinding poverty, and here, as sure as poppies grow in Flanders, are the seeds of crime."

Another reason for the relatively high crime record in the United States is the question of race. Statistics show that a large number of the crimes of violence are committed by Negroes against Negroes. This is due primarily to the fact that, as a general rule, the Negroes are more emotional and impulsive than the other elements of the population and consequently are moved more easily to crimes.

The Courts

Nor is it to be denied that the administration of justice in the United States is in many instances extremely faulty and responsible for a great deal of crime. The Committee on Recent Social Trends was fully cognizant of the responsibility of these conditions for crime in the United States for in its report on crime, it made the following observation:

The people of the United States are politically decentralized, both in form and in spirit, and are still moved by the ideas of the rural society of the nineteenth century. In most states, judges, prosecutors and clerks are elected. Each court, each police department, each jail, is an independent entity. The spoils system is a part of the political creed and practice. More fundamental still are the fears



BIGGER THAN THE LAW?

—Fitzpatrick in St. Louis POST-DISPATCH

of executive despotism, expressed in the Jeffersonian saying, "the least government is the best government." The American people are only gradually accepting the principle of the administration of government by experts and as long as the citizen does not consciously lose money as a result of the inefficiency of officeholders he is characteristically content. Hence, only the rudiments of that professional pride within the civil service which one finds in Great Britain or Prussia are found here. Moreover, many Americans think of government in terms of what they, as persons, not as citizens, can get out of it—the "fixing" of parking tickets, a contract "thrown," a tariff rate raised. On those rare occasions when they become discontented they change personnel, principles of administration and laws in a desperate effort to secure improvement. Inefficiency of administration is one of the many causes of crime and in turn a large volume of crime adds to administrative confusion and inefficiency.

That public officials, many of them, are alive to these conditions is a self-evident fact. Many recent attempts have been made to overhaul the legal machinery of the government. Attempts are being made to increase the powers of the federal government in the cases of those crimes with which the state and local governments are unable successfully to cope. Thus, we find that the extension of the crime of kidnapping gave rise to federal legislation designed to combat the evil. Moreover, the recent wave of lynchings has given rise to a fairly strong movement for a federal anti-lynching law designed to give the national government authority to step in when local authorities are unable to prevent such manifestations of mob violence.

It is hardly to be denied that the greater efficiency of the European and British police and judicial systems has been due primarily to this centralization of control and authority. While in some cases, the local political divisions exercise a great deal of control themselves, there is always supervision by the central government. But such a practice in this country has been confined to only a few crimes, such as the transportation of narcotics and stolen automobiles across state lines.

What the future in this country will be, no one can predict. The Committee on Social Trends does not look for great change in the near future, expressing the view that the extent of crime will remain about the same. One of the serious problems of the immediate future will arise in connection with prohibition repeal. Will the many crimes that have arisen from the bootlegging industry, such as gang murders and racketeering of all sorts, be abolished? Or, will those elements of the population that have been particularly active in those fields shift their attention to other activities of the underworld the results of which will be just as harmful to the nation? These are questions with which public officials must be concerned during this period of transition.



ANOTHER HAND IN THE NEW DEAL.

—Talburt in Washington NEWS



The Recovery Program Week by Week



Studies of the Government in Action



THROUGHOUT its operation one of the most important difficulties of the recovery program has been the bewilderment of the public. All the sections of the movement toward recovery are intended to give direct aid to the people of the United States. If one needs a loan on a home or a farm, he should be able to apply to the government for it, quickly and easily. Business men want to obtain information about the NRA as it pertains to them; farmers must find out the ways and means of cooperating with AAA plans; local officials need instruction about the provisions required for public works and civil works projects.

Average Man Bewildered

The average citizen has been lost in the hubbub of boards, bureaus, and local offices. He needs a place where he can learn the details of all those parts of the recovery program which affect him. Consumers, who have no organized means of making their wants known, should have the opportunity to make any necessary complaints by talking with an understanding government officer who represents all the agencies.

This need for information and help has been neglected because of a lack of co-ordination. Each federal agency has its own setup in the field. There are local and state NRA boards, relief administrators, public and civil works offices, AAA representatives, and home loan boards.

One part of the program, such as the NRA, has gone ahead faster than other sections. Often the administrators of one recovery agency are not aware of what has been done by their colleagues in other agencies. A host of smaller troubles originates from this cause. Local administration of the various units is sometimes inefficient. There is waste motion and unnecessary repetition of work. Local committee members do not always understand what they are expected to do. Department heads at Washington are not always well informed of special local conditions.

Last week President Roosevelt announced a change which he believes will solve these administrative problems. He has created a new organization to be known as the National Emergency Council. It is not just another addition to the present confusion. Its purpose is to reduce that disorder to a minimum by unifying the efforts of all the groups now active. It will develop a clearing house administration by means of which various departments may move ahead together and at the same time become easily available to the people.

In his statement the president stressed the importance of a central information bureau, "for the purpose of conveying to the public all factual information with reference to the various governmental agencies." This bureau will be headed by Frank Walker, treasurer of the democratic national committee. His headquarters at Washington will serve as a center, and

branch offices of the National Emergency Council will be established in all states and most of the counties. These local councils will take over the work of almost all the local offices now administering the different recovery departments.

Local Contact Groups

For instance, one such council in your county will be the point of contact between the citizens of your community and the NRA. Consumers groups, laborers,

the AAA is trying to raise farm prices faster than the prices for goods which the farmer must buy.

Like all the recovery units, the National Emergency Council will be recognized by its initials, NEC. Authority for its creation exists in the National Industrial Recovery Act. For the time being, at least, it is considered a temporary measure, to live only as long as the economic emergency lasts. Its expenses will be paid out of the NRA appropriations. So far only \$10,000

government authority; these men compose the Left group. Other men in positions of importance are conservative, heading toward the Right.

President Roosevelt has attempted to keep his executive departments running on this basis. He tried it in the Treasury until he became convinced that such conservatives as Secretary Woodin and his assistant, Dean Acheson, could not work with the inflation policy sponsored by more liberal advisers. The NRA also works in such a fashion as to keep the balance between conservatives and liberals, employers and employees.

In the Department of Agriculture, the liberals are Secretary Wallace, Assistant Secretary Rexford Tugwell, Consumers' Counsel Frederick Howe, and General Counsel Jerome Frank. Mr. Peek is much more conservative than this group; so are Dairy Administrator Clyde King and General W. I. Westervelt, head of the marketing and processing division.

Code Work Slow

It has been Mr. Peek's job to handle the food codes which were assigned to the AAA. Work on these codes has progressed slowly, with nothing like the speedy activity of the NRA. Mr. Peek finally became too indignant to go on with the work. His complaint was that after he had held code hearings and reached agreements with the manufacturers of various classes of food products, the final settlements were subject to revision by the Left group in the department. He felt that Tugwell, Frank and Howe had no right to meddle with the codes and otherwise suggest changes, after he had done his best.

Added to these facts is the belief of Mr. Wallace that we must settle the farm problem by forgetting world markets and producing almost solely for our own use. Mr. Peek opposes this view, believing that we must seek means to expand the world markets for our farm products.

President Roosevelt had to settle this dispute in order to avoid the immediate resignation either of the entire Left wing or of the conservative leaders. His first act was to remove the principal bone of contention—the food codes—from the AAA. He handed them to the NRA and General Johnson. Then he tried to persuade the two agricultural factions to bury the hatchet. Just now it is uncertain how successful the settlement will be. Every man concerned declares he will not resign. Probably the liberals will remain, but Administrator Peek will very likely leave his post.

The president has offered Mr. Peek a position as head of a new committee for our export trade, that would have for its purpose the opening of new markets for United States farm and industrial products abroad in exchange for American imports of wines and liquors. Such a job would agree very well with the administrator's views on rebuilding prosperity for the American farmer.



A NATIONAL EMERGENCY COUNCIL HAS BEEN SET UP TO TAKE THE PULSE OF THE NEW DEAL.

and employers will take their troubles to it. In addition the council will handle the work of the Farm Credit Administration, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, the CWA, and part of the AAA. One exception is that of NRA compliance. National Compliance Director Davis indicates that the local compliance boards will continue, because of the specialized problems with which they must deal.

The group which will head the National Emergency Council consists of the secretaries of agriculture, commerce, and labor; administrators of the NRA, AAA, and Federal Emergency Relief; the chairmen of the HOLC and Farm Credit Administration, and a representative of the Consumers' Council. The president expects this new step to end the conflicts between the NRA and the AAA. These administrations have disagreed on numerous occasions during recent months, because they are in one sense working toward opposite ends. The NRA raises the prices of manufactured goods through agreements on hours and wages. On the other hand,

has been allotted to it; that is the amount of Mr. Walker's salary. The president expects most of its personnel, in the state and local councils, to serve without pay. This is the way in which corresponding NRA boards work now. However, it is probable that regularly employed clerical workers will be hired for the local offices. Most of them can be transferred from the existing agencies. It may be that it will cost less to run NEC offices than the combined expense of those organizations.

Dispute in the AAA

Next to the formation of the NEC, the most interesting development in the recovery program last week was the reorganization of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. This move grew out of the basic disagreements between Secretary Wallace and Administrator George Peek. The AAA, like several other departments, has contained Right and Left wings. That is, some of the department officials want to attack the agricultural question in a radical or liberal manner, with strong

Something to Think About

1. How do you account for the fact that there is so much more crime in the United States than in other nations?
2. Find out from your local authorities whether there has been an increase or decrease in crime in your own community during the last twenty years. What changes, if any, do you think there should be in our court system, or our police system?
3. Do you or your friends violate any laws, such, for example, as traffic regulations? Do you think it possible to build a public opinion which stands strongly for the observance of all laws?
4. "The persecution of Jews and Communists in Germany is one of the most indefensible outrages against human rights of which there is any record in modern times." Do you agree with that statement?
5. Which would be the greatest break from the past: the abolition of the states in Germany, or in the United States?
6. Compare the Hitler and the Roosevelt recovery programs.
7. State the substance of the president's appeal to the American people on the occasion of the repeal of the eighteenth amendment.

8. Does your town or city have a commission, city manager, or a council form of government? What are the arguments in favor of each?
9. How does the making of plans for the federal budget involve decisions as to the recovery program? What issue has developed between the forces of the "Right" and the "Left"?
10. What item of news on page three seems to you most important?

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PRONUNCIATIONS: Reichstag (rikhs'takh—i as in time, a as in art), Nazi (not'see), Württemberg (voor'tem-berkh—the two e's are short as in met), Thyssen (tiss'en—i as in hit), Mueller (mue'ler—u and e pronounced simultaneously), Heywood Broun (hay-wood broon), Yosuke Matsuo (yo-soo'kee maht'soo-oh'ka), Seiyukai (say-yoo-ki'—i as in time).